

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN, AUDITORS

AND

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF BOSCAWEN,

FOR THE YEAR 1858.

CONCORD:

STEAM PRINTING WORKS OF McFARLAND & JENKS,
PHENIX BLOCK, MAIN STREET.

1859.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

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ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT OF THE

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

ON THE

PROCEEDINGS

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Received of former selectmen,	8.57
Caleb E. Smith, on his collection for 1857,	1,100.00
Hale Atkinson, on account of E. Gitchell,	2.50
Samuel Glidden, hired,	240.00
Jesse D. Sanborn, hired,	100.00
Ira Sweatt, on his collection for 1858,	6,474.38
Literary fund,	156.04
John Hanson, Jr., grass in grave yard,	4.00
Town of Bradford, support of C. F. Blanchard,	11.50
County of Merrimack, support of paupers,	131.24
Town of New-London, support of Moses P. Everett,	22.75
Town of Hill, support of Sally Noyes,	26.48
State Treasurer, Railroad tax,	366.12
George W. Stevens, liquor agent,	60.00
Ira Sweatt, on his collection for 1856,	104.75
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	\$8,808.33

EXPENDITURES.

Outstanding Bills.

Paid S. A. Ambrose, Selectmen's expenses,	3.00
Walter H. Sargent, for enrolling rifle rangers,	2.00
John A. Coburn, for coffin, digging grave, &c.,	3.50
Luther Gage, support of E. Glancy and J. Tucat,	24.00
G. W. Stevens, Town Clerk services,	1.56
Abner Sargent, Selectmen's services,	9.60
Hale Atkinson, Selectmen's services,	4.00
Caleb Smith, Selectmen's services,	5.00
W. A. Fisher, abatement of taxes for 1857,	90.32

Joshua Tuffts' heirs, highway tax worked out,	1.25
W. B. Corser's heirs, highway tax worked out,	.25
M. P. Eastman, plank and work on road,	4.75
John Haines, work on Town House,	1.67
J. C. Gage, auditing Selectmen's accounts,	4.00
I. K. Gage, auditing Selectmen's accounts,	4.00
Cyrus Dustin, work on road,	1.50
Charles E. Putney, repairing pick,	.25
George W. Stone, bolts for bridge,	1.00
James F. Sanborn, digging three graves,	2.25
Calvin M. Chadwick, for tending fires and care of Town House,	1.00
Isaac F. Boynton, abatement of tax, 1857,	1.90
Enoch Danforth, damage for crossing land,	2.20
Joseph Clough, non-resident tax worked out,	.50
Joseph Eastman, non-resident tax worked out,	5.00
Sundry abatements on Ira Sweat's collection, 1856,	54.75
Isaac P. Sargent, school money, district No. 17,	6.53
Joseph W. Stone, for enrolling militia, and work on bridge,	6.50
Jones & Cogswell, printing reports,	26.00
Caleb E. Smith, abatements on his collection, 1857,	128.12
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	\$396.40

Roads and Bridges.

Paid Edward F. Jeffers, for plank and work on road,	3.75
Jeremiah Noyes, running line for road,	.33
Amos J. Simpson, work on road,	1.00
Carter F. Blanchard, work on road,	4.40
Mariner P. Eastman, repairing abutment, &c.,	49.92
Charles C. Kimball, work on road,	2.50
Jeremiah S. Webber, work on road and bridge,	16.50
Charles B. Little, work on bridge,	1.50
Freeman Ferrin, work on road,	1.00
John S. Stevens, work on road and use of blocks,	4.50
Samuel P. Sweatt, work on road,	3.81
Hiram Tilton, work on road,	1.00
George Sweatt, for shingling bridge, nails, and work on road,	13.00
William D. Call, work on road,	1.00
William P. Elliott, for lumber, and work on bridge,	19.00
Daniel Milton, lumber for bridge,	14.00
N. A. Davis, lumber for bridge,	3.04
T. W. Jones, work on bridge,	2.00

Wm. Speed, work on road,	5.50
C. & J. C. Gage, lumber for bridge,	238.61
Joseph Smith, for plank,	11.44
Plummer R. Stevens, work on road,	23.40
Wm. M. Sweatt, work on road,	3.00
Orlando H. Fitz, work on road,	18.45
Atherton Sweatt, work on road,	2.00
Hiram Little, plank for bridge,	4.64
Friend L. Burbank, lumber for bridge,	42.70
Benjamin Jackman, work on road,	1.50
Ezekiel Adams, work on road,	7.00
Asa M. Gage, for planking bridges,	19.22
Gage, Porter & Co., for nails,	11.03
Nathan B. Greene, plank for bridge,	4.00
Amos Webber, gravel for road, plank for bridge,	3.00
Charles E. Lang, stringers for bridge and work on same,	7.00
Richard P. Shattuck, work on road,	2.80
Wyatt B. Whittier, work on road,	1.00
Benjamin F. Jackman, work on road,	1.00
Ira Jackman, work on road,	1.00
Moses Whittier, lumber and nails,	5.91
Moses Whittier, work on Livingston bridge,	14.95
Moses Whittier, work on Davisville bridge,	19.00
Moses Whittier, work on road near Dodge's mill,	8.25
Harvey Atkinson, lumber for bridge,	12.32
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	\$610.97

Support of Paupers.

Paid John M. Fitz, medical attendance Sarah T. Dan- forth,	5.00
James Stevens, board of Sarah T. Danforth,	25.00
Jane Day, support of Wyatt Boyden,	10.00
Town of Loudon, support of Mrs. Rines,	3.50
Sarah Johnson, support of Rhoda Abbott,	25.00
Jane Day, support of Wyatt Boyden,	10.00
John Sanborn, assistance rendered M. C. Eastman,	3.00
Wm. M. Sweatt & Co., support of A. P. Gitchell,	5.25
Town of Alton, support of Atkins family,	31.62
Jane Day, support of Wyatt Boyden,	10.00
Samuel C. Roby, support of Sally Noyes,	2.75
Enoch Gerrish, wood for Deborah Perry,	1.00
Lysias Emerson, assistance for Deborah Perry,	3.95

Paid E. K. Webster, medical attendance Deborah Perry,	7.50
John Greenough, support of Sally Noyes,	.52
John Sanborn, support of Moses C. Eastman,	4.00
Thomas H. Currie, medical attendance E. Gitchell's family,	20.83
Thomas H. Currie, medical attendance Israel Tucot's family,	9.17
Jane Day, board of Wyatt Boyden,	8.00
Joseph K. Sanborn, support of J. Thurlow,	4.00
Thomas H. Currie, medical attendance E. Thurston family,	11.41
Thomas H. Currie, medical attendance of poor at alms house,	6.85
Charles Rielly, support of Mathews child,	1.72
David Jackman, support of Polly Moody,	10.00
Jane Day, board of Wyatt Boyden,	10.00
Enoch Gerrish, support of E. Gitchell,	2.75
Austin G. Kimball, support of Israel Tucat,	10.00
Caleb E. Smith, support of Joseph H. Hopkins,	39.00
Nathaniel H. Arey, medical attendance Moses P. Everett,	22.75
Nathaniel H. Arey, medical attendance Carter F. Blanchard,	8.50
Enoch Gerrish, support of Sally Noyes,	3.25
Moody A. Pillsbury, support of Mrs. M. Elkins,	7.52
John Carter, support of Mary Gill,	18.50
Thomas H. Currie, medical attendance E. Gitchell,	2.17
D. A. Gerrish, provisions for E. Thurston,	1.00
John Greenough, support of Deborah Perry,	18.50
John Greenough, support of Enoch Thurston,	29.00
John Greenough, support of Ezekiel Gitchell,	21.81
Luther Gage, support of E. Thurston,	2.12
Moses Whittier, support and cash paid for William T. Libbey,	9.07
Mary G. Heath, support of Matthews child,	7.00
Thomas H. Currie, medical attendance E. Thurston's family,	6.00
Thomas H. Currie, medical attendance Jacob Waldron,	4.75
William M. Sweat & Co., support of Carter F. Blanchard,	3.00
John Greenough, support of poor at alms house,	38.63
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	\$485.39

Miscellaneous.

Paid Walter H. Sargent, notifying town officers,	\$5.50
John A. Kilburn, taking affidavit,	.50
Jonathan C. Shepard, bill for sawing lumber,	6.54
H. A. & A. H. Bellows, for legal advice,	1.00
E. K. Webster, taking affidavits,	1.00
George W. Stevens, taking affidavit,	.25
William P. Blake, police services,	21.25
Alexander Stevenson, police services,	2.25
Daniel Adams, digging graves, cleaning hearse, &c.,	13.00
John French, digging graves, and care of grave-yard,	3.25
Daniel Center, digging graves, and care of yard,	6.00
George W. Stevens, services as liquor agent,	30.00
Caleb E. Smith, bill at Concord,	.50
James H. Gill, wood for town house,	.75
Abiel Trumball, rent of lands occupied by Jane Day,	2.00
D. A. Gerrish, use of horse when on business out of town,	2.50
M. Whittier, use of horse when on business out of town,	11.10
Selectmen's expenses at sundry times,	19.50
Henry W. Knowlton, police services,	2.50
T. W. Jones, for chest,	3.00
Isaac K. Gage and Calvin M. Chadwick, Auditors,	4.00

\$136.69*State Tax.*

Paid State Treasurer,	\$502.60
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County Tax.

Paid County Treasurer,	\$1120.99
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School Commissioner.

Paid George W. Gardner,	\$28.72
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School-House Taxes.

Paid J. C. Gage, District No. 14,	\$500.00
F. B. Sawyer and E. Kilburn, District No. 6,	350.00
B. F. Hale, District No. 2,	163.00

\$1,013.00*School Money.*

Paid District No. 1,	\$191.49	Paid District No. 10,	133.52
Do. 2,	64.04	Do. 11,	70.00
Do. 3,	104.49	Do. 12,	65.53
Do. 4,	111.72	Do. 13,	85.34
Do. 5,	87.74	Do. 14,	266.20
Do. 6,	88.95	Do. 15,	35.13
Do. 7,	65.60	Do. 16,	54.42
Do. 8,	116.46	Do. 17,	6.00
Do. 9,	105.79		

\$1,652.52

Superintending School Committee.

Paid Edward Buxton,	18.00
E. K. Webster,	14.00
Jonathan Tenney,	9.48
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	\$41.48

Books, Stationery and Postage.

Paid G. Parker Lyon,	7.90
At sundry times for pens, ink, paper, stamps, &c.,	1.64
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	\$9.54

Abatement of Taxes.

Paid sundry abatements,	8.50
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Non-Resident Highway Taxes.

Paid Daniel Jones, highway tax worked out,	.31
E. F. Greenough, highway tax worked out,	.43
W. C. Moulton, highway tax worked out,	.50
Abiel R. Chandler, highway tax worked out,	1.50
Hiram Roby, highway tax worked out,	.38
Daniel Richardson's heirs, highway tax worked out,	.39
Gilman Colby, highway tax worked out,	1.00
C. C. Coffin, highway tax worked out,	1.50
Joseph Clough, highway tax worked out,	.18
Nathaniel White, highway tax worked out,	1.50
Joseph Eastman, highway tax worked out,	5.75
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	\$13.44

Paid N. H. Asylum for the Insane.

1858.

April.	For Moses Sawyer, Joseph Hemmingway and Ann M. Carter,	74.75
July.	For Moses Sawyer, Joseph Hemmingway and Ann M. Carter,	112.40
Oct.	For Moses Sawyer, Joseph Hemmingway and Ann M. Carter,	114.65
Feb.	For Moses Sawyer, Joseph Hemmingway and Ann M. Carter,	116.56
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		\$418.36

Discount on Taxes.

Paid Ira Sweat, discount on taxes,	124.03
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Notes paid.

Paid Abner Sargent,	125.31
Abner Sargent,	125.59
Alpheus C. Flint, on note,	25.00
Hannah Blaisdell,	25.00
Nicholas M. Noyes,	116.05
J. D. Merrill,	551.99
Hale Atkinson,	113.52
Daniel Eastman,	119.35
Samuel Marden, note,	174.70
Alpheus C. Flint,	140.66
Jeremiah Rolfe,	52.67
William Temple,	113.06
David Parker,	100.00
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	\$1,782.90

Selectmen's Services.

Paid Moses Whittier, services as selectman, overseer of poor and treasurer,	72.00
Enoch Gerrish, services as selectman and over- seer of poor,	57.00
David A. Gerrish,	50.00
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	179.00

Collector's Services.

Paid Ira Sweat, services as collector for 1858,	50.00
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Superintendent at Alms House Services.

Paid Jonathan C. Shepard, services at poor farm, with interest,	230.68
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RECAPITULATION.

Outstanding bills,	\$396.40
Roads and bridges,	610.97
Support of paupers,	485.39
Miscellaneous expenses,	136.69
State tax,	502.60
County tax,	1,120.99
School commissioner,	28.72
School-house taxes,	1,013.00
School money,	1,652.52
Superintending school committee,	41.48

Books, stationery and postage,	9.54
Abatements of taxes,	8.50
Nonresident highway taxes worked,	13.44
N. H. Asylum for the Insane,	418.36
Discount on taxes,	124.03
Notes paid,	1,782.90
Selectmen services and overseers of the poor,	179.00
Collector's services,	50.00
Superintendent at alms house,	230.68
Cash in the hands of the treasurer,	3.12
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	\$8,808.33

Financial Condition of the Town.

March 10, 1858.

	Dr.
Due, as reported by former board of selectmen,	\$6,753.40
Due David Parker, note,	100.00
Due on outstanding bills,	396.40
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	\$7,249.80

Due on Ira Swett's collection, 1856,	104.75
Due on C. E. Smith's do., 1857,	1,100.00
Due Anna Jackman, note,	357.00
Due from town of Hill,	19.60
Due from Merrimack county, on paupers,	24.00
Due on accounts,	5.00
Due on Eayers' colls., 1855, estimated good,	16.00
Cash in hand of treasurer,	8.57
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	1,634.92

Balance against the town, 1858,	\$5,614.88
Amount of notes due, 1858,	6,753.40
Estimated interest for one year,	405.20
David Parker's note,	100.00
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	\$7,258.60

Amount of notes paid, and interest,	1,850.21
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	\$5,408.39
Money hired, and interest,	358.44
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	\$5,766.83

Cr.

Due on Ira Sweatt's collection,	991.64
Due Anna Jackman, note,	378.76

Due county, support of paupers,	27.89	
Due town of Epsom,	26.07	
Due Eayers' coll., 1855, estimated good,	16.00	
Accounts,	7.68	
Cash in hands of treasurer,	3.12	
		<hr/> \$1,451.16

Balance against the town, March 1, 1859, \$4,315.67

MOSES WHITTIER, } *Selectmen*
 ENOCH GERRISH, } *of*
 D. A. GERRISH, } *Boscawen.*

Schedule of Property at the Alms House, March 1, 1859.

2 oxen,	115.00	Cops and pin,	.42
2 steers,	36.00	Sheep shears, hammer,	.50
5 cows,	115.00	3 hoes,	.75
2 calves,	18.00		
1 horse,	50.00		\$88.59
2 swine,	18.00		
Hay, over keeping stock,	40.00		
	<hr/> 392.00		
		PROVISIONS.	
		1½ bus. beans,	2.25
		25 bus. corn,	25.00
		Flour and meal,	6.00
		60 lbs. dried apples,	5.50
		35 lbs. lard,	5.00
		Tallow and candles,	3.50
		200 lbs. pork,	24.00
		100 lbs. beef,	6.00
		100 lbs. hams,	12.50
		100 lbs. fresh beef and	
		pork,	8.00
		150 lbs. cheese,	15.00
		25 lbs. butter,	5.00
		½ bbl. pickles,	3.00
		½ bbl. vinegar	2.50
		50 bus. potatoes,	16.67
		1 gal. molasses,	.32
		5 lbs. sugar,	.45
		Salt,	.50
		Garden seeds,	.50
		Soap, grease and ashes,	6.00
		2 bbls. garden sauce,	2.00
			<hr/> \$149.69

FARMING TOOLS.

1 wagon,	15.00
1 cart and hay rack,	8.00
1 harness and 2 horse	
blankets,	4.00
1 hay cutter,	3.00
1 single sleigh,	8.00
Lot of chains, and drag,	8.00
1 plow, 2 sleds,	9.00
Ox yokes and iron,	6.00
Hay and manure forks,	
sickle,	3.84
Harrow and cultivator,	3.00
Shovels, scythes and rig-	
ging,	3.75
Horse and hand rakes,	4.00
Beetle and wedge,	.50
Axes, augurs and chisels,	3.00
Iron bar and shave,	1.33
Grindstone,	3.00
Wheelbarrow,	3.50

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.			
5 stoves,	22.00	Grain chest,	1.00
1 brass kettle,	3.00	Cupboards,	2.00
Crockery,	4.00	Wheel and loom,	1.00
Coffee-mill,	.25	Bread trough,	.50
Chairs and table,	6.00	Brass time-piece,	3.00
Iron ware,	5.50		<hr/>
Tin and earthen ware,	4.50		\$150.97
Beds and bedding,	80.00	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Tubs, pails and chairs,	3.00	8 cider barrels,	4.00
Meat barrels,	2.00	1½ bbl. cider,	3.00
Cheese press,	1.50	Wood and hand saws,	1.50
Knives and forks,	.50	Dry casks,	2.00
Sad irons,	2.00	2 M. boards and plank,	20.00
Canisters and jugs,	.50	32 cords wood,	50.00
Cheese safe,	2.00		<hr/>
Trays, chests, drawers,	3.00	Miscellaneous,	\$80.50
Dry measures,	.50	Household furniture,	150.97
Steelyards,	.50	Provisions,	149.69
Wash-stand, pitcher and bowl,	1.50	Farming tools,	88.59
Meal bags,	.80	Stock, &c.,	392.00
Candle-stick and snuffers,	.42		<hr/>
		Personal property,	\$861.75

Pauper Establishment, Dr.

1858.		
March 1.	To real estate,	2,000.00
	Personal property,	1,053.94
	Notes and cash,	18.30
	Interest on property,	184.33
	J. Greenough's bill of goods,	38.63
	Paid saw bill,	6.54
	Services of Superintendent,	225.00
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		\$3,526.74

Pauper Establishment, Cr.

1859.		
March 1.	By real estate,	2,000.00
	Personal property,	861.75
	Notes and cash,	21.70

430 weeks board,	430.00
Betterments on farm,	25.00
Betterments on clothing,	25.00
	<hr/> \$3,363.45

Balance against the Establishment, \$163.29

MOSES WHITTIER, } *Overseers*
 ENOCH GERRISH, } *of*
 D. A. GERRISH, } *the Poor.*

The undersigned, appointed to audit the accounts of the selectmen for the year 1858, report that we have examined said accounts, and find the receipts from March 10, 1858, to February 25, 1859, inclusive, to have been \$8,808.33 ; and the disbursements to have been \$8,805.21, the accounts of which are properly vouched and correctly cast, leaving a balance in the hands of the selectmen of \$3.12.

ISAAC K. GAGE, } *Auditors.*
 CALVIN M. CHADWICK, }

Boscawen, Feb. 25, 1859.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

IN compliance with the provisions of the laws of this State, the Superintending School Committee of the Town of Boscawen present the following Report.

REV. MR. BUXTON'S REPORT.

DISTRICT No. 3. *Summer Term.* This school was profitable, especially to the smaller classes. The instruction and discipline of it indicated experience in teaching. The general deportment and improvement of the scholars were commendable.

Winter Term. The instruction and management of the school were good, resulting in substantial improvement of all the scholars. One of the scholars, an interesting little boy, died suddenly of scarlet fever, which, through fear that the disease might spread in the District, caused the school to close suddenly a week sooner than was intended.

DISTRICT No. 6. *No Summer Term.* The time was occupied in the building of a new and excellent school-house.

Winter Term. The instruction was well adapted to promote the intellectual and moral improvement of the scholars.

DISTRICT No. 7. *Summer and Winter Term.* Same teacher in both. The instruction and management of this school were productive of very happy results. The teacher exerted upon her scholars such influence as secured their affections and confidence, interested them very much in their studies, and developed in them the feelings and sentiments which should adorn the character of children and youth. The closing exercises of both terms were very interesting.

DISTRICT No. 8. *Summer Term.* The success in the instruction of the school was good. Its examination at the close of the term was very gratifying, as a manifestation of the skill and faithfulness of the teacher, and of the intellectual and moral improvement of the scholars.

Winter Term. The instruction of the school deserves commendation, as being well adapted to promote the best interests

of the scholars. Their deportment and improvement were commendable.

DISTRICT No. 9. *Summer Term.* The school was quite satisfactory to the District, and, to a good degree, profitable to the scholars. At the closing examination there were gratifying indications of their improvement.

Winter Term. In the instruction and management of this school the teacher was very successful. He readily secured the good will of his scholars, their compliance with the rules of school, and their substantial improvement in their several studies.

DISTRICT No. 11. *Summer and Winter Terms.* By same teacher, who also taught a private school of eight weeks. Her services in each of these terms were satisfactory; the deportment and proficiency of her scholars commendable.

DISTRICT No. 12. *Summer and Winter Term.* Same teacher in both. Her services both terms were productive of happy results. The closing examinations were very gratifying, as indicating the skill and faithfulness of the teacher, and such improvement of her scholars in mind, heart and manners as renders children and youth more promising and lovely.

DISTRICT No. 15. *Summer Term.* The school was to a considerable degree profitable.

Winter School. The services of the teacher were satisfactory, and the improvement considerable.

DISTRICT No. 16. *Summer Term.* The school was to a considerable degree profitable.

Winter Term. The instruction and management of the school were correct and judicious. The general deportment and improvement of the scholars were commendable.

Several of the teachers deserve a word of commendation for their direct and judicious endeavors to impress moral and religious instruction on the minds of their scholars. Such teachers, other things being equal, should have the preference above all others.

DR. WEBSTER'S REPORT.

DISTRICT No. 1. *Summer Term.* The teacher was well qualified. Her efforts for the moral and intellectual improvement of her scholars were commendable. She succeeded in giving very general satisfaction. A little more enthusiasm, and she would be a most excellent teacher.

Winter Term. The teacher of the two preceding winters has had charge of the school, and has fully sustained his reputation as a *successful* and *profitable* teacher. He exerted himself to promote, not only the intellectual, but the moral and religious good of his pupils. If the school has not been, in *all respects*, what it should be, it is not *his* fault.

That there is not that interest in the school, on the part of

parents, that there should be, is evident from their neglect to visit the school, and thus aid and cheer the teacher and scholars by their countenance and coöperation; in the *condition* and *situation* of the school-house, which presents *no* inducements, in itself, to the scholar to visit it daily, and in the *great* and *inexcusable* irregularity in attendance, as shown by the register.

DISTRICT No. 2. *Summer Term.* This was the first effort of the teacher at school keeping, and she gave evidence of good training. The school improved under her tuition.

Winter Term. By the same teacher. In this, her second effort, we have not been disappointed. By her kindness and efforts to do good she succeeded, to a good degree, in securing the affections of her pupils, and interesting them in their studies. Improvement and general satisfaction were the result.

The people in this District are taking more interest in their school. During the past season they have rebuilt their school-house, and, with one exception, have made it very convenient and comfortable. The seats and desks are altogether too high, and should at once be altered.

DISTRICT No. 5. *Summer Term.* The teacher was well qualified in her studies, and, by her assiduous and conscientious efforts to do her duty, she commended herself to her pupils, to their parents and your committee. Experience, with, perhaps, a little more enthusiasm, is alone requisite to make her excel.

Winter Term. The teacher had no previous experience in teaching. The school was visited by Prof. Gardner, the Commissioner for Merrimack County, and he kindly permits the use of the following extract from a note recently received from him. In speaking of the school he says: "In respect to *order*, *good management* and *accurate teaching*, the school appeared to me to be *entirely successful*."

When we see, in all the school districts in town, the same *interest* manifested for the correct moral and intellectual training of their children; the same *disposition* to sustain good *order* and *thorough* instruction in the schools, as in this, we shall then have more good schools, and, consequently, fewer poor ones; have less occasion to complain that our children make so little improvement, and that so much of our school money is uselessly expended.

DISTRICT No. 13. *Summer Term.* The teacher of last winter returned to her labors in this school. After teaching three and a half weeks, the school was closed, on account of the sickness prevailing in the District.

Winter Term. By same teacher. The school was long, and pretty well managed—an improvement upon former terms. There was, however, a lack of that *thoroughness* which is so desirable in *rudimental* instruction. There was, on the whole, considerable improvement.

Parents, in this District, exhibit a commendable degree of

interest in their school. A little more *union* of effort, and caution in the selection of teachers, will secure more desirable results.

REV. MR. SMITH'S REPORT.

DISTRICT No. 4. *Summer Term.* The teacher was well qualified, morally and intellectually, and took a lively interest in the welfare of her pupils. The order and improvement of the school were good.

Winter Term. The teacher was successful in the government and instruction of his school. A healthful influence was exerted also in respect to good morals and manners. The scholars were taught to "make their bow" on entering and leaving the school-room, which they very cheerfully did—the universal custom of other days, now too much neglected.

DISTRICT No. 10. *Summer Term.* The attendance was very irregular, no less than 224 instances of tardiness, and 460 half days of absence, being marked in the register. The school-house is out of repair, and the seats very uncomfortable. Under these circumstances, it is not strange the teacher failed of success in the government of her school. The improvement of the scholars was as good as could reasonably be expected.

Winter Term. The teacher was well educated and diligent, but the order and improvement of the school were defective.

The parents and children of this District are suffering great injury from the bad condition of the school-house, and the neglect of punctual attendance on school.

One teacher says, what many have painfully experienced, "If the whims of the scholars were less regarded by their parents, it would prove an advantage to the pupil, and increase the happiness of the teacher."

R E P O R T

Of the Superintending School Committee of District No. 14, in the Town of Boscawen, under "The Somersworth Act."

During the summer term the school was divided into two departments. The primary was taught by Miss Cassandra A. Greene, a young lady of mild and amiable deportment, and by her prepossessing manners soon gained the love and confidence of her pupils. Her school on examination appeared quiet and orderly, and it was evident to your Committee that the improvement made by the children in the different classes was very commendable, and all that could reasonably be expected.

The higher grade was taught by Miss M. Abbie Wadleigh, a young lady of much experience, and eminently qualified in all respects for the business of teaching. She possessed an unu-

sually happy faculty of gaining the good will and love of her scholars, and thereby preserving the very best order. Under such government and thorough instruction, the scholars in her charge made rapid progress. In all their recitations full evidence, was given that the teacher had performed her duty ; being systematic in her instructions and government, she succeeded in her employment to the entire satisfaction of your Committee.

The school was interrupted, from the commencement to its close, by the measles, in the form of an epidemic, thereby causing many marks of absence from unavoidable causes ; and your Committee very much regret that so many children should be deprived of the privilege of attending school while taught by successful teachers.

The winter term was divided into two departments. The primary was taught by Miss Cassandra A. Greene, who has well sustained her former reputation as a teacher of youth, and her labors have been crowned with success. Her school at the close appeared in good order, the improvement of her pupils commendable, and, as far as your Committee have been able to learn, her success has been appreciated by the parents in the District.

The higher grade was taught by William H. Foster, an able and experienced teacher, who has been successful in governing as well as teaching. Mr. Foster is fortunate in being able to give much oral instruction to his pupils in connection with what is written, and scholars in his charge have made the best improvement in all the studies connected with the school. He has produced a good degree of interest among the inhabitants, and many of the parents have taken pains to show that they have appreciated the efforts of the teacher. They have encouraged him by making their children punctual, and do their duty while in school.

We would have parents be ever faithful to their children, by impressing upon their minds the importance of punctuality, diligence and obedience to all proper laws, rules and regulations of their teacher. Manifest a growing interest in all that pertains to the education of your children, and you will soon have correct views of the matter, and will make every desirable improvement in regard to your schools.

STEPHEN M. EMERY,	} <i>Superintending School Com.</i>
NATHAN B. GREENE,	
CALVIN GAGE,	
T. O. WILSON,	
ISAAC K. GAGE,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>District No. 14.</i>

FELLOW CITIZENS :

Your Committee have thus endeavored to discharge the responsible duty to which you called them. They only regret

that it has not been more *faithfully* discharged. None can be more sensible than themselves of their deficiencies. With their view of the magnitude of their office, they will cheerfully resign it to any who will perform its duties better. But while their labors have been arduous and at times perplexing, they hope they have not been entirely in vain. They feel that they can assure the town that the condition of the schools is, in many respects, decidedly in advance of former years.

Buildings often fall, or go to decay too soon, on account of defects in the foundation. For similar reasons men often find their education deficient because they did not make themselves familiar with its first principles. Your Committee have, therefore, examined the schools, first of all, in Reading, Writing, Spelling and Arithmetic. The main design of our common schools is to drill our youth in these branches. Here and there a few individuals are prepared to go into some advanced studies. But even where this is the case, it must, too often, be done at the expense of the principal design and interest of the school. And if any think that there is not subject matter enough in these elements to demand the diligent effort of most of our youth, from five to sixteen years of age, they have yet to learn, themselves, what it is to read, spell and write well.

It is a noticeable fact that, in most of our schools, the girls read better than the boys. In almost every school there are a few good readers; but there would be more if they were content to read, only, where they are qualified to read, and then make reading a study.

Writing, for the most part, is not yet attended to as it should be; and the great difficulty in this department arises from the frequent change of teachers. Every new teacher, of course, has a handwriting peculiar to himself, so that the learner gets along but a little way before he is obliged to alter his hand somewhat, in order to imitate his new instructor. To remedy this evil your Committee have recommended a uniform *system* of writing, to be used in all our schools, which they trust will meet the approbation of all interested in the welfare of our common schools. They have, also, recommended a uniform set of books, in the various branches of common school education, which have been pretty generally adopted. Yet they find some schools but partially supplied. They would call the attention of such schools to the matter, and respectfully urge an *immediate* supply.

Attention has frequently been called to the condition of our school-houses, and whilst we are happy to report a very commendable degree of improvement in that respect, we are obliged to say, "there is yet room for more."

The selection of *prudential committees* is a matter of *no small importance*. They alone have the selection of teachers. Politi-

cal and personal prejudices are often carried into our school affairs, and prudential committees are selected on account of their adhesion to some *political party*, or for being party to some *petty feud* or *neighborhood broil*, rather than for any fitness for the business, or interest in the school. It seems desirable that where the *character* and *welfare* of our children are concerned, we should lay aside *party prejudices* and *personal animosities*, and act *unitedly* for the common interest. Districts should see to it that the very *best* men are chosen to that office; men who have a *real* interest in the cause of common schools, and who are not only *competent* to select teachers, but who are *willing* to make reasonable efforts to obtain a *good* one.

Prudential Committees should feel the *personal* responsibility resting upon them, to see that everything be provided that will insure the success of their schools—to give to them their *personal attention* and *encouragement*—to *seasonably* give the required notices to the superintending committee—to see to the *proper* filling up and *return* of the school register, and to withhold payment from teachers until the law which makes this *their duty*, is *fully* complied with.

To raise the standard of our common schools, nothing is so necessary as *the best of teachers*. We desire to employ the best blacksmith to shoe our horse, the best tailor to make our garments, the best “hired man” to do our farm work. We consider it true economy to do so. No man is *rich* enough to be able to have *poor help*, or to get *poor work* done. Are not our children of much more deep and lasting importance than horses and clothing and hay-making? Be discreet, then, in employing those who are to help in their mental and moral training. Never say, before children, never say anywhere, that “she will do to teach our children.” Are not our children as good as anybody’s? Are not their bodies, their minds, their souls, very dear to us? If so, let us not make them feel that we think of them so cheaply as the intimation that an inexperienced, poorly educated, cheaply hired teacher, will *do for them* seems to imply. We may be sure that such teachers will give our children a *very cheap* education, and make them *very cheap* men and women.

Colts must have most careful treatment. None but a skillful hand can train a colt, while the reins of the old, well-trained horse may be trusted in the hands of a mere boy or ignoramus. So with children. Let their first training be done by none but the teacher of the divinest skill in the affairs of the mind. Then, in later life, it will not be easy to misguide or abuse them.

In seeking out teachers, then, after resolving that we *will have the best*, let us use uncommon care to find them. Inquire of those who know them and the school. And we would suggest that the teachers educated in our own town have the

first claim upon our patronage, and are more likely, than strangers, to enter upon their work with a knowledge of our condition and wants. As a general thing, we have succeeded best when we have judiciously employed our home teachers—teachers born or educated in our midst. Let us learn wisdom from this, and not be inclined to send off for some distant cousin, or take up some stranger, who would like, *for the pay*, to spend a winter vacation with us.

He is not the best teacher who stays in his school the longest hours, hears the longest lessons, talks the most, gets his classes farthest along in the book; but rather he who makes the winged hours *alive*, awakens the most thought, excites the liveliest interest, stimulates to investigation, and lays *foundations* that may never need to be laid again. Not so much *pouring in* as *draining out* should be his aim; not *how much* but *how well* his testimony at examination; not how much show can be made *this term*, but for a *life time*, yea, for *eternity*, his object. Such a teacher makes men of self-reliance, independent reason, lofty purpose. Alas, how few such teachers have we! How few such men in consequence!

Nor is he the best manager of a school whose only boast is that his pupils are *perfectly still*. None but fools and slaves will be kept in this condition. The best manager of a school is he *who rightly controls and directs the activity of his pupils*. He has no right to palsy their nerves, keep their muscles motionless, restrain their respiration, or check the flow of their blood. But he must have the *power* to have a *still school—perfectly still*, if you please, when he *requires* it. Nor is it to be secured by scolding, fretting, threatening, nor by any pains or penalties, except in some cases of uncommon obstinacy of nature or previous ill management, which *admit of no delay on account of the general good*. The best teachers rule by their own firm and gentle manners, their decided “word in due season,” their manifest, earnest interest, their skillful planning of every thing that contributes to order, and by judicious intercourse—familiar, respectful and self-respectful—among their pupils. All these inspire self-respect, love of the teacher, love of the school, love of order; and, of course, cheerful submission, ready acquiescence.

Teaching and governing must be united in the teacher. Nature and art unite to make the best teacher, and one who fails to *do both well for school and easier to himself* should never impose himself upon the public. If honest, he will not do it. He had better “get his living” some other way. We have but few good teachers, and they are to be *sought out*; not *waited for*. Those who go about asking for schools, like those who ask for public office, are not always the most deserving. Let parents covet and obtain “THE BEST.”

Having secured the *best* teachers, and placed our children

under their care, they should be *looked after, visited often*. Our registers show a *beggarly* account of visits to our schools by parents and others. We are gratified, however, to make some *honorable exceptions*, and the effect is plainly to be seen, for, in connection with the exertions of the *good teacher*, the school has been greatly benefitted.

"No business, however engrossing, should take the attention of the parent from his child while obtaining an education. He should see for *himself*, by frequent visits to the school, whether the child is obtaining the proper education for a life of *usefulness*, and whether he is surrounded with those influences necessary for a *development* of the noblest faculties of the soul. Seed of whatever kind bears legitimate fruit, and it is *hard and toilsome* labor to eradicate the seeds of *evil* from the *heart's garden* after they have once taken root. How important, then, that parents should see for themselves that their children, in the *spring-time* of life, are receiving correct *mental and moral culture*."

The labors of the Committee have been divided as indicated in the Reports, in which the opinion of each member is given upon the schools under his *own* supervision. This course is adopted for *pecuniary* considerations, not that it is, on the whole, *best* for the schools. It would be better that *all* the members of the Committee visit *each* school, or that the supervision of *all* the schools be committed to some *one man, fully competent* for the office. In either case, we should then get the relative condition of each school in town. As it now is, it is impossible so to prepare the Report as to show which are our best schools, and who are our best teachers.

We have said thus much to awaken, if possible, a *deeper interest* in our common schools. There is a great deal of *rich mental energy* under the *rough but free soil* on which we live. But much of it is like the granite in the quarry—it needs only to be *dug out*, and it will make the most massive, substantial pillars in the temple of our *great social structure*, and admit of no *mean polish*.

Respectfully submitted,
EDWARD BUXTON, }
E. K. WEBSTER, } *Superintending*
A. SMITH, } *School Committee.*

BOSCAWEN, March 8, 1859.

	Number of District.	Teachers.	Residences.	Wages per month, including board.	No. pupils averaging 2 weeks.	Average attendance.	Length of term in weeks.	No. of instances of tardiness.	No. of instances of dismissal.	Not absent during the term.	No. cases corporal punishment.	Number of months previous experience in teaching.
TABLE I. — SUMMER SCHOOLS.												
1	Miriam J. Ropes....	St. Johnsbury, Vt.	19.00	44	38	15½	1030	80	0	*	13	0
2	Josephine W. Nye....	Salisbury.....	12.00	11	8	8	54	4	5	5	0	0
3	Fanny W. Wallace...	Boscawen.....	15.00	22	19	10	20	11	1	*	45	0
4	Celia Cutter.....	Manchester.....	15.00	14	13	11	*	*	4	*	0	0
5	Ellen Little.....	Bradford, Pa....	13.00	20	18	12	179	11	4	8	3	0
6	No Summer School.											
7	Ellen K. Abbott....	Boscawen.....	15.00	20	18	11	42	15	1	*	32	0
8	Mary Flint.....	Boscawen.....	16.00	29	22	10	24	4	3	3	12	0
9	Ellen H. Putney....	Hopkinton.....	11.76	32	27	12	42	20	2	1	4½	0
10	Jennie S. French....	Wilton.....	15.00	27	21	12	219	26	0	1	4	0
11	Mary A. McCurdy...	Boscawen.....	13.00	16	12	8	60	4	0	*	*	0
12	Ellen Flint.....	Boscawen.....	14.00	26	25	9	21	8	10	*	3	0
13	Mary S. Shaw.....	Franklin.....	15.00	..	24	3½	14	4	0	0	6	0
14	M. Abba Wadleigh...	Meredith.....	13.00	50	21	10	81	32	0	3	20	0
14	Cassandra A. Greene.	Fisherville.....	14.00	31	35	10	238	35	0	7	0	0
15	Mahala F. Rand.....	Hopkinton.....	10.00	18	15	12	41	10	4	*	5	0
16	Phebe J. Call.....	Boscawen.....	10.00	15	13	8	37	21	2	*	*	0
TABLE II. — WINTER SCHOOLS.												
1	S. G. Haley.....	East Andover...	35.00	44	34	12	57	30	0	*	10	0
2	Josephine W. Nye...	Salisbury.....	12.00	10	6	11	28	3	1	*	2	0
3	John C. Pearson....	Boscawen.....	25.00	27	24	9	135	38	1	*	3	0
4	Warren Abbott.....	Boscawen.....	21.81	17	14	11	23	8	5	3	2½	0
5	Sarah E. Webster...	Boscawen.....	14.00	20	19	12	10	3	6	6	0	0
6	Priscilla Little.....	Boscawen.....	18.00	21	14	16	218	46	2	*	*	0
7	Ellen K. Abbot.....	Boscawen.....	17.36	21	18	9	74	15	1	1	35	0
8	Helen M. Dearborn..	Great Falls....	18.00	24	16	15	104	41	2	*	2	0
9	Joseph Couch.....	Boscawen.....	25.33	31	24	11	49	10	2	*	5¾	0
10	D. A. Dickinson....	Lebanon.....	28.00	33	27	11½	123	53	0	*	3	0
11	Mary A. McCurdy...	Boscawen.....	15.50	18	15	10	88	17	0	2	4	0
12	Ellen Flint.....	Boscawen.....	14.00	26	23	8	9	6	2	*	51¼	0
13	Mary S. Shaw.....	Franklin.....	16.68	39	22	17	119	50	0	3	8	0
14	William H. Foster...	Canterbury....	50.00	55	42	9½	65	46	2	0	110	0
14	Cassandra A. Greene.	Fisherville.....	14.00	38	32	7½	88	31	1	0	3	0
15	Helen M. Chase.....	Hopkinton.....	11.00	19	12	12	*	*	6	*	16	0
16	George S. Couch....	Boscawen.....	17.60	20	17	8	69	20	2	2	7	0

* No report.

TABLE III.

Number of District.	Prudential Committees.	Whole number attending sch'l during the year.	Number of visits of Prudential Committee.	Number of visits by citizens and strangers.	Visits of Superin'ting School Committee.	Apportionment of school tax.	Amount of school tax to each scholar during the year.	Usual designation of the Districts.
1	Lysias Emerson...	54	0	67	4	191.91	3.54	Plain.
2	B. F. Hale.....	14	3	13	5	64.04	4.57	North Water st.
3	Willard Watson...	31	0	35	4	104.49	3.37	Corser Hill.
4	Royal Choate.....	18	3	10	4	111.72	6.20	High street.
5	D. A. Gerrish.....	21	1	61	5	87.74	4.17	North Boscawen.
6	Francis B. Sawyer.	21	3	2	8	88.95	4.23	Little's Hill.
7	P. R. Stevens.....	25	1	49	4	65.60	2.62	White Plains.
8	John P. Farmer...	37	1	21	4	116.46	3.14	Bashan.
9	Thomas Elliott....	40	2	36	6	105.71	2.64	Putney's.
10	F. S. French.....	35	2	21	5	133.52	3.81	Gulf.
11	Rice Corser.....	20	3	21	4	70.00	3.50	Pleasant street.
12	David E. Burbank.	27	1	34	5	65.63	2.43	Sweatt's Mills.
13	B. Atkinson.....	43	0	20	6	85.34	1.98	South Water st.
14	John C. Gage.....	138	0	62	8	263.20	1.90	Fisherville.
15	William Clough...	18	0	0	3	35.13	1.95	Sanborn.
16	David Call.....	22	0	16	4	54.42	2.47	Battle street.
17	[See note.]	4				6.34	1.58	Abbott.
	Average for each scholar in town,.....	568	20	468	79	1649.78	2.90	

NOTE. Annexed to Warner for school privileges.